NATIONAL HONEY REPORT



Agricultural Marketing Service Fruit and Vegetable Programs **Market News Division**

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HONEY MARKET FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER, 2015 IN VOLUMES OF 10,000 POUNDS OR GREATER UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED

Prices paid to beekeepers for extracted, unprocessed honey in major producing states by packers, handlers & other large users, cents per pound, f.o.b. or delivered nearby, containers exchanged or returned, prompt delivery & payment unless otherwise stated. - REPORT INCLUDES BOTH NEW AND OLD CROP HONEY - (# Some in Small Lot --- +Some delayed payments or previous commitment)

CALIFORNIA			OREGON			
Alfalfa	Extra Light Amber	\$2.00	Wildflower	White	\$1.50	
Cotton	Extra Light Amber	\$2.00	Wildflower	Extra Light Amber	\$1.50	
Cotton	Light Amber	\$2.00	TEXAS		,	
Orange Blossom	White	\$2.20	Tallow	Light Amber	\$1.83	
Orange Blossom	Extra Light Amber	\$2.20	Western	White	\$1.70	
Valley	Extra Light Amber	\$2.00	WASHINGTON			
Valley	Light Amber	\$2.00	Wild berry	White	\$2.00	
DAKOTA	Ü		Wild berry	Extra Light Amber	\$2.00	
Alfalfa	White	\$1.75	WYOMING	· ·		
Alfalfa	Extra Light Amber	\$1.75	Alfalfa	Light Amber	\$1.70	
Basswood	White	\$1.50	Clover	White	\$1.75	
Buckwheat	Light Amber	\$1.70 - \$1.83				
Canola	White	\$1.50 - \$1.75	Prices paid to importers for b	ulk honey, duty paid, c	ontainers inclu	ıded,
Canola	Extra Light Amber	\$1.50 - \$1.75	cents per pound, ex-dock or p	point of entry unless otl	herwise stated.	
Clover	White	\$1.50 - \$1.83	ARGENTINA			
Sunflower	White	\$1.75	Mixed Flowers	White	\$1.69 -	\$1.88
Sunflower	Extra Light Amber	\$1.75	Mixed Flowers	Extra Light	\$1.63 -	\$1.83
Western	White	\$1.70	Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.55 -	\$1.83
Western	Extra Light Amber	\$1.70	BRAZIL			
FLORIDA			Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.35	
Gallberry	Light Amber	\$1.83 - \$1.85	ORGANIC	Light Amber	\$1.80 -	\$1.89
Tallow	Light Amber	\$1.83 - \$1.85	ORGANIC	Amber	\$1.89	
Wild berry	Extra Light Amber	\$1.85	INDIA			
Wildflower	Light Amber	\$1.50 - \$1.60	Mixed Flowers	White	\$1.69 -	\$1.74
IDAHO			Mixed Flowers	Extra Light	\$1.56 -	\$1.72
Wildflower	Light Amber	\$1.83	Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.35 -	\$1.62
IOWA			Mustard	Extra Light	\$1.67	
Clover	White	\$2.07	MEXICO			
LOUISIANA			Orange Blossom	Light Amber	\$1.97	
Tallow	Light Amber	\$1.83 - \$1.85	VIETNAM			
MISSISSIPPI			Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.35 -	\$1.57
Soybean	Light Amber	\$1.81	Mixed Flowers	Amber	\$1.47	
MONTANA			UKRAINE			
Canola	Extra Light Amber	\$1.85	Mixed Flowers	Extra Light	\$1.70	
Canola	Light Amber	\$1.85	Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.60 -	\$1.71
Clover	White	\$1.50 - \$1.75	URUGUAY			
Sunflower	White	\$1.75	Mixed Flowers	White	\$1.73	
Wildflower	Extra Light Amber	\$1.75	Mixed Flowers	Light Amber	\$1.59 -	\$1.68

COLONY, HONEY PLANT AND MARKET CONDITIONS DURING SEPTEMBER, 2015

September, several areas in the District received some much needed rainfall. A stalled nor'easter storm followed by threats of Hurricane Joaguin had growers concerned going into the month of October. Temperatures were about normal for the month. Beekeepers continue to report colonies doing fairly well and a few reported some colonies are receiving supplemental feeding. In bloom for the month were asters, sunflowers, goldenrod, joe-pye wee, and other wildflowers.

ALABAMA: No report issued.

ARIZONA: Temperatures in Arizona were at below normal levels during the first week of September, and then fluctuated between above and at normal levels for the remainder of the month. The range statewide in temperatures for the month was from a high of 111 degrees Fahrenheit in Bullhead City to a low of 36 degrees Fahrenheit in Window Rock and Grand Canyon.

During the month of September, the weekly number of reporting stations across Arizona to receive precipitation (out of 50 stations) were 42, 41, 33 and 43, respectively. Out of the 50 reporting stations, 28 are at above normal precipitation levels for the year, with 22 stations at below normal levels for the year.

The main nectar and pollen sources for bees in the state during the month of September was desert plant bloom, alfalfa, cotton, with some cantaloupes and honeydews. Demand for honey was good.

ARKANSAS: Pollen and nectar sources received in the month of September were from golden rod and cotton. Conditions of the colonies were good throughout the month. Weather conditions showed normal temperatures with little rainfall. Supply and demand remain good.

CALIFORNIA: Pacific moisture streamed into the State and interacted with an incoming Pacific low into the northwestern United States. Temperatures were warm to start the week, then cooler the remainder of the week. Locations along the coast typically saw highs in the 60s to 80s and lows in the 50s to 70s from north to south. Valley locations experienced highs in the 70s and 80s, with lows in the 40s and 50s by the weekend. Desert areas received highs in the 90s and lows in the 70s, while mountain locations received highs in the 60s to 80s and lows in the 20s to 40s (based on elevation). On Sunday night, temperatures in the mountains fell low enough to result in the first snowflakes of the season at elevations above 8000 feet. Some locations saw anywhere from a dusting to 2 inches of snowfall, with heaviest snows in the higher elevations of Tulare County.

On Wednesday, rain was confined to a narrow band from San Luis Obispo to San Francisco on the coast, and stretched inland into the mountains near Tahoe, with totals mostly under one tenth of an inch. On Thursday, showers dotted parts of the central coast south of San Francisco, the Sierras, and parts of the northern valley between Sacramento and Redding, with less than a tenth of an inch. Saturday brought heavier rains from San Francisco and Reno northward across the valley, where locations reported up to a quarter inch of rain. Only a few light showers were reported Saturday along and south of the Los Angeles Basin. Many locations on Sunday, southeast of a San Luis Obispo to Fresno to Reno saw some rain, except for the deserts. Most locations reported around a quarter of an inch of rain, although some locations in the hills just south of Los Angeles reported over a half inch of rain.

The beekeeping season is coming to a close. By the end of the month the colonies must be ready to face the winter months. Beekeepers continue to monitor hive health and ready the hives for colder temperatures by managing brood boxes. The bees will require supplemental feeding to help them through the winter.

FLORIDA: The weather was a little hotter and wetter than normal in most of Florida, although a few areas reported dryer than normal conditions. Bee health was considered to be fairly good with many beekeepers using multiple products in rotation to achieve good mite control. Food sources included Brazilian Pepper, Goldenrod, Spanish Needle, Melaleuca and assorted wildflowers. Brazilian Pepper bloomed from the west coast to the east coast at least two weeks earlier than normal this year. It was blooming on the east coast before the end of September, while most years it is usually near the middle of October before it blooms in the east. Most Florida bees had returned from Northern states by the end of the month. Many beekeepers were splitting hives and using supplemental feeding to rebuild bee numbers before almond pollination begins in California after the first of the year. The supply of honey remains light with good demand and steady prices. The price of darker baking or industrial grade honey is reported to range from \$1.80-\$2.20 with prices being reported mostly in the \$2.00-\$2.20 range. This is also a historically high price for this type of honey, even though cheaper imported honey has led to slightly lower prices recently. The number of registered beekeepers in the state is expected to reach the 4,000 level by November or December of this year, if registrations continue at the current pace.

GEORGIA: Most of the beekeepers were managing their hives and treating them in preparation for the fall months ahead. Supplemental feeding is used to get the bees in top condition before the cold weather comes in. Some parts of the state, especially the mid to southern areas had more rain than needed and it had an effect on the availability of pollen. Demand is still strong and prices continue to stay high and supplies are light. Many beekeepers are attending shows and meetings training new members and helping them with better management techniques to prevent extra losses during the year. Retail: wildflower \$8 pound sourwood \$10 pound up to 12-15 a pound.

IDAHO, COLORADO, UTAH: Temperatures were above normal over most areas of Idaho, Utah and Colorado during the month of September, according to the National Weather Service. During the same period, precipitation was below normal over most areas in Colorado, Idaho Falls, Idaho and an area around Moab, Utah. Above normal precipitation was recorded around Durango, Colorado and most areas in Utah and Idaho. The extra precipitation that was recorded in the Upper Panhandle of Idaho did little to alleviate the persistent extreme drought in that particular area of the State.

According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, Colorado continues to have normal moisture conditions across most of the State in September. The exception, were a few pockets scattered around the State of Colorado that were abnormally dry. Normal moisture conditions are present in Southeastern areas of Utah. The rest of Utah ranges from abnormally dry to severe going from east to west across the rest of the State. Idaho has drought conditions that range from abnormally dry in the Southeast part of the State, to extreme drought conditions located in the Western and the Northern Panhandle areas of Idaho. The areas of extreme drought in Idaho have continued to grow and intensify during September.

By the end of September most honey frames had been pulled from hives, but according to beekeepers there was still a lot of honey to extract. There was still some pollen available from rabbit brush and sage brush and a few other fall flowers at the end of September. Commercial beekeepers are in the middle of extracting from their hives. As soon as the honey is extracted beekeepers are following up immediately with mite treatments. At the current time, most mite loads seem to be at the tolerable level in most of the three State area. According to one beekeeper in Idaho, mite levels are lower than they have seen in 5 to 6 years. One of the struggles with mite control seems to be finding the type of treatment that will actually work. Beekeepers have indicated that over time, the mites have a tendency to build up resistance to specific types of treatment. So in order to stay ahead of evolving mite

tolerance, different combinations and experimenting with various formulations becomes the norm. Overall bees are looking heavy and healthy at this time, with very few losses in the past month. Very little spot supplemental feeding has occurred in Idaho on an as needed basis. In Colorado, the great honey crop has been a monetary bonus for beekeepers, as they have not needed to provide any supplemental feeding due to good honey stores. Commercial beekeepers in Utah however are preparing to start feeding sugar or corn syrup and pollen patties. On September 10, 2015 a semi-trailer overturned near Pocatello, Idaho releasing millions of bees onto the I-15 roadway as a result of the accident.

As more commercial beekeepers start to calculate their honey yields for the 2015 season, one fact is known; the overall size of the crop in Idaho and Utah will be just average in overall poundage per hive. Some Idaho beekeepers are figuring around 30 pounds of honey yield per hive, whereas in Utah some commercial beekeepers were averaging around 45 pounds per hive. Colorado is a whole different story when compared to Utah and Idaho. This has certainly been a turnaround year for beekeepers in Colorado. Some beekeepers there are averaging around 60 pounds and in some cases better, per hive. This is much higher than the Colorado beekeepers have seen for many years due to the droughty conditions which are largely dissipated now.

Wholesale demand for honey is very good across Idaho, Utah and Colorado. New supplies of honey are starting to build to higher levels due to the influx of the 2015 crop of honey. According to commercial beekeepers, the current wholesale price for good white domestic honey in Idaho, Colorado and Utah currently averages from \$1.70 to \$2.10 per pound with a mostly price of: \$1.70 to \$1.85 pound. The higher prices in the range listed above, were the result of wholesale buyers paying a premium for top quality lots of honey. The trend of wholesale prices is 2015 compared to 2014 is lower overall. Prices for white capping wax ranged from: \$3.50 to \$5.00 per pound depending upon quality and quantity.

ILLINOIS: Temperatures for the month of September were normal with a lack of rainfall. Beekeepers are checking for mites. Most beekeepers report that their bees are in good to excellent condition. Beekeepers also report a little bit of foliage for their bees to feed on, such as goldenrod and aster. Beekeepers say there has been very little production in September. Demand for honey is good at the retail level and fairly good at wholesale level. Prices are generally unchanged.

IOWA, KANSAS, MISSOURI, NEBRASKA: Warm and dry conditions were observed throughout the region, as temperatures were above normal. Precipitation varied, as rainfall totals were less than normal in Kansas and Missouri. Nebraska was much higher and Kansas was slightly above normal monthly averages.

Beekeepers reported bees were working asters, goldenrods and various fall ornamentals. Activities have slowed down as beekeepers have begun to enter fall management. Bees are being reported in good condition overall. The honey flow was good. Demand for local and domestic raw honey continues to remain high, as trading remains active.

State beekeepers associations have begun to have their annual conferences. Beekeepers are also teaching classes and attending meetings

INDIANA: Temperatures for the month of September were warmer with most days in the 80s. Rainfall in most parts of the state was below average for this time of the year. Beekeepers report that their bees continue to feed on foliage, such as alfalfa, clover and goldenrod, and have pollen, but no nectar. Beekeepers report their bees in good condition and that they have a healthy population. Beekeepers report low mite counts and have begun treatment with oxalic acid. Beekeepers have started supplemental feeding of the bees. A few beekeepers report that they have had no production in September and therefore no sales in September. Prices are generally unchanged.

KENTUCKY: After a really dry spell in late August, in which beekeepers were doing an exceptional amount of supplemental feeding, Kentucky has experienced a solid soybean and goldenrod nectar flow, along with wild cucumber, smartweed, and aster. Beekeepers are still sending in end-of-the-year reports, but after a very cold spring and wet summer, a lot of hives seem to have stabilized. There are some cases of deformed wing virus, chronic bee paralysis virus, and other secondary problems associated with varroa mites. Beekeepers have also lost hives due to small hive beetle, which is normal in a year with as much rain as Kentucky has had. There were quite a few late-summer swarms, perhaps due to the hive congestion brought on by the rain, and consequently, beekeepers had problems associated with such a phenomena (i.e. queens not mating properly, hives weak because of sudden lack of food stores, etc.). Overall, though, most KY beekeepers have been able to take a break from feeding for a few weeks because of the ample nectar flow, the exception those beginners starting with first-year hives

Report from KY State Beekeepers Association: The following are the final tallies of the KSBA 2015 Kentucky State Fair Honey Booth Sales. Total Sales: \$54,626.15. Candles: 4,294 HoneyStix Sold: 18,900 Hard Candy Sold: 660 pounds.

LOUISIANA: In Central Louisiana heavy spring rains, followed by excessive heat in mid-summer shut down the nectar and pollen flows. Both the spring and fall harvests were about 50% normal. Harvesting occurred mid-September, about two weeks behind schedule. Demand for honey is present but the selling prices have not increased. Lose of hives was minimal due to the adverse weather. Normal pest problems were dealt with: Small Hive Beetle, Varroa, etc. No supplemental feeding was needed. The nectar and pollen sources normally available in mid-summer were compromised, thereby cutting into the return of the honey harvested. Prices stayed the same: \$6.00/pint; \$12.00/quart; \$48.00/gallon.

MICHIGAN: In mid-Michigan, the honey flow during the month as fair, with showers shutting down the goldenrod flow at its peak. This is typical of this year's crop across the state, average at best. Many hives are light and have required feeding, although some areas have fared slightly better. Bees seem to be healthy despite the excess rain with good plant growth. Locally, the demand and price of honey has remained strong. In the North Central region, the recent weather patterns have been exceptionally good for nectar and pollen foraging. Due to the average summer crop, colonies have been plagued with an increase of mite infestations. Some beekeepers have reported losses at the end of September at 30-40%. Splitting is underway to compensate for the higher than normal seasonal losses, and to prepare commercial hives for winter pollination contracts. Almond pollination contracts are at 2015 Spring levels (\$185 unit for units of 12 combs or bees on February 1), with the response being excellent for strong populous units.

MINNESOTA: Temperatures were above normal over the entire State during the month of September, according to the National Weather Service. Precipitation was above normal in Eastern areas of Minnesota and below normal in Western areas of the State during the same period. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, the entire State had normal moisture conditions.

With a late push of warmer temperatures across Minnesota in late September, bees were still bringing in small amounts of pollen from goldenrod plants. It is also at this time of year where Minnesota commercial beekeepers are starting to plan their next mission to Southern States and to California for the 2016 annual almond pollination experience. Now that many beekeepers have been able to calculate their 2015 yields, most producers are fairly satisfied with their results. Yields are not as high as they had anticipated back in early summer, but overall commercial beekeepers are obtaining

poundage of 65 to 75 pounds per hive. If this level of production holds, it will easily be the best crop of commercial honey in Minnesota in the past 10 years

By the end of September commercial beekeepers were finishing the task of pulling frames from hives in the field. Extraction, according to beekeepers should be completed by the first week of October. As soon as the honey has been pulled from hives, beekeepers were following up immediately with mite treatments. At the current time, most mite loads seem to be at the lower levels, to the surprise of many beekeepers. However, there is no rest for beekeepers because even though mite levels are low at this time, higher levels could develop quickly and without warning. So treatment of potential mite issues is a priority management tool utilized on all hives. With the higher production of honey this season, many beekeepers have not had to utilize as much supplemental feed for their bees. What little feeding that has occurred, has been on sporadic and only on an as needed basis. "What a difference one year can make", as one beekeeper stated. This is a welcome change from the past few years for Minnesota beekeepers, when they not only had smaller honey crops, but had to dig deep in their pocket to fund extra supplemental feeding of their bees just to keep their operations viable. So this year it is also a huge economic cost saving for beekeepers to have a honey crop and be able to utilize some natural honey stores for their bees. Overall commercial beekeepers have indicated that their bees are looking healthy and heavy at this time. Overall losses of bees this summer in Minnesota have been lower, at around roughly 10 percent. Again, this is an encouraging sign to commercial beekeepers looking forward.

Wholesale demand for honey continues to be very good in Minnesota. According to commercial beekeepers, the current wholesale price for good white domestic honey in Minnesota currently averages from \$1.85 to \$1.90 per pound. In some cases wholesale white honey was selling for more depending upon quality and quantity.

MISSISSIPPI: The beekeepers are prepping the hives in preparation for the cold months ahead. Most of the hives have been treated and the bees are reported to be in good condition heading into fall. The bees are bringing in pollen from a light goldenrod flow and supplemental feeding is also used to keep the bees in optimal condition for winter. Prices remain steady and demand strong.

MONTANA: During September, temperatures averaged near normal for most of the month, while precipitation levels averaged below normal across Montana State. Moisture measurements for the week ending on September 30th, measured top soils at 16 percent very short, compared to 2 percent last year, 30 percent short, 13 percent last year, 47 percent adequate compared to 77 percent last year, and 7 percent surplus this year compared to 8 percent last year. Subsoil moisture measurements were 49 percent very short and short, while 51 percent of the measurements measured adequate or surplus moisture.

The season's generally dry conditions resulted in little natural foraging vegetation for the bees other than irrigated crops such as late alfalfa. Honey extraction was ongoing in September with variable results from good to below average yields reported by beekeepers. After extraction, keepers were busy stripping down hives, applying treatments, and supplemental pollen patties and sugar syrup feed to the hives, and generally preparing colonies to be trucked to California or the other wintering areas. Colony heath was reported to generally be good. Honey demand was good.

NEW ENGLAND: New England weather for the month of September featured seasonally warm, milder than normal temperatures with an extended period of summer weather with many locations with record highs for the season. Keepers report huge populations of bees easily filling the entire area of 2 deeps for brood rearing with them constantly being used and refilled. In this regard many hives appear strong and heavy. Bees have been working celthra alnifolia, Mexican & Chinese bamboo, fall aster, staghorn sumac, white & sweet clover, chives, thistle, purple loose strife, button bush, assorted wild weeds especially knotweed, sweet pepper bush, assorted wild flowers and particularly golden rod. Other late food sources still blooming are mint, lavender agastache, buckwheat, Indian silk and coreopsis to finish the month. The ornamentals, joe-pyeweed weed, pickerel weed, sedum (stone crop) are out in abundance as well as jewel weed which leaves a slight white pollen mark on the thorax.

Overall bees are working hard with a strong population buildup. At this point in time, many keepers re-queen in the fall in order to have a strong, healthy queen and brood for the spring. Keepers are looking to maintain at least one deep with 3 to 4 frames of brood for as long as the queen will lay. Currently bees are working diligently at storing as much nectar as possible. They are also working at evaporating moisture from the nectar. As the nectar is cured into honey, the bees will move the honey and arrange the stores for winter. Keepers inspect and are proceeding with the arrangement of honey supers for winter with the final setup being brood in the bottom with honey and pollen in the top. In early fall, keepers will ensure that there are a couple of frames of honey on the outer edges of the bottom box. Keepers state that if the queen does not move to the bottom box by early October, then keepers will proceed to move all the brood frames to the bottom so honey can be stored in the top box and this will ensure that the top hive box is either full or advancing to be so by sugar feeding by the beginning of November. Beekeepers have been busy concentrating on extracting honey as well as winter preparations which focus on the treatments for nosema, chalkbrood, wax moth, hive beetle, and also American foulbrood, varroa and tracheal mites. Seasoned beekeepers have observed that early on- back in July, some hives had high levels of mite infestation with the possibility that nosema disease was the main causal agent. Several keepers complained about slow growth in their hives. Some commercial beekeepers are feeding pollen supplements, so that they will have strong colonies for winter survival. Some experienced beekeepers advised treating with Fumigellin-B and consequently observed marked improvement after treatment for nosema. Nosema disease has been a growing concern, hence more difficult for beekeepers to identify and being blamed for hives failing to thrive.

Reportedly this year, there has been an increase in wax moth presence especially on bottom boards and on inside covers due to warmer weather. More attention to mouse guards and preventing wax moths are being discussed at bee association meetings.

Keeper associations throughout New England are seeking to find what makes bees better by working towards solutions that will increase the span of their lives and the quality of their health. Produce commodity growers/shippers are working with commercial keepers and are discussing the creation of supplemental forage programs that focus on a honeybee's health. Everyone agrees that we must be cognizant of bees needs because with a growing world population and a greater demand for food, honeybees and all pollinators have to be a part of that equation.

This is the time of year when yellow jackets have been found to be hanging around on the ground around hives. Keepers report that hives are showing early eviction of drones and swarming was a problem in several regional areas. Seasoned keepers claim that September is the final exam for beekeepers. If you can control varroa mites and nosema disease then you will improve the chances of winter survival by four. In some pocket, regional areas, purportedly mites have been heavy and many keepers are still trying to get honey off hives and treat for mites. Reportedly, the new formic acid quick strips seem to be the preferred treatment.

Overall, the 2015 season was a reasonably good season by exhibiting the noted concerns with bee health, higher than average honey production and good conditions for queen rearing. New England honey yields for the more successful beekeepers are currently coming in at an average of 70 to 80 pounds per hive, which is much better than anticipated in June and this puts much more honey available for purchasing. The fall flow of dark honey is

slightly less than normal as a result of the hot temperatures and dry weather throughout New England in August. Demand for local honey has never been better and prices are lower.

Demand at all retail/wholesale outlets remains strong and honey sales remain firm. Prices quoted for retail 1 lb. bottled units were \$9.00 to \$12.00 mostly \$10.00, occasionally higher, and 1 Quart bottled units were \$18.00 to \$20.00 mostly \$18.00, occasionally higher, inclusive of all varieties; for food service operations, prices were firm with 5 gallon units at \$195.00 to \$240.00 mostly \$215.00 and occasionally lower for all raw and natural honey depending on variety and quality.

In the Northeast overall, the wholesale natural and raw honey price has been around \$2.50 to \$2.80 per pound, mostly \$2.60 per pound, occasionally higher, by the 55 gallon barrel. Propolis reportedly is \$14.00 to \$17.00 mostly \$16.00 for 2 ounces tincture and pollen is \$26.00 to \$30.00 mostly \$28.00 per quart.

NEW YORK: The season is coming to a close as goldenrod flow has waned, leaving a small amount of asters being the last pollen source in the Finger Lakes and Central region of the state. Production varied across the state with many counties too wet and others drier than normal. Surprisingly, weather conditions during the summer was one of the best years in the previous 25. A good year is around 100-120 pounds per hives, and some beekeepers have reported averages of nearly 190 pounds per hive! The production seemed to be split between the early summer black locust and basswood flow, and the late summer Goldenrod harvest. Temperatures during much of September averaged higher than normal. The larger beekeepers in the state are busy extracting honey, which could affect wholesale and retail prices as supply is greater than demand at the moment. The slower summer months are behind now, and demand should increase with the cooler months ahead. The hives appear in good health, with heavy colonies and the drier weather has assured good pollen storage.

NORTH CAROLINA: Temperatures in North Carolina varied throughout the month, but were mostly above normal. Precipitation for the month was mostly normal to below normal with statewide soil moisture levels rated 9.5 percent very short, 23 percent short, 53 percent adequate, and 14.5 percent surplus the week ending September 26. The North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council reported 38 counties as being abnormally dry, 35 counties as experiencing moderate drought conditions, and 16 counties as being under severe drought conditions.

Colonies remain in only moderate condition with apiary inspectors reporting Varroa mite pressure as being fairly high across central North Carolina. Diligent monitoring and control is imperative to prevent losses. Food stores were reported as being short and many beekeepers had to feed their bees sugar syrup throughout the month to assist with winter preparations. Foraging was moderate due to dry conditions, but where available bees could be seen working Aster throughout the state; Heartsease, Smartweed was available in the Piedmont region as well as Goldenrod which stretched east to the Coastal Plains region. It is anticipated that rains late in the month will bring forth an abundant fall nectar flow from Aster and other sources, but any production should be used as winter food stores rather than harvested for retail sales.

Consumer demand for honey remains high and in most areas exceeds supply due to early season rains hindering spring production. Compared to last year at this time, prices are slightly higher. Retail prices at the Raleigh State Farmers' Market were: \$8.00 per 8 ounce jar, \$13.00 per 16 ounce jar, \$22.00 per 32 ounce jar, and \$18.00 per 44 ounce jar.

Commercial pollinator hives and replacement bee operations were placed in yards to rest and replenish. Demand for replacement bees remains high as new beekeepers entering the field seek out well established hives and veteran beekeepers start placing orders for next spring.

NORTH & SOUTH DAKOTA: As beekeepers work finish extractions, the results of the cooler weather and the smoke that drifted down from the fires in Canada disrupting the forage crops and the bees is showing up in reduced yields. The peak of the smoke and cooler weather in mid-summer occurred during the clover bloom limiting bee activity and production. Beekeepers are getting their bees ready for transporting to their winter homes.

OHIO: No report issued.

OKLAHOMA: Golden rod, fall flowers, and late wheat alfalfa in some fields were too wet to cut and supplemental feeding started mid-September. Weather conditions brought rain off and on in most areas; a few days of rain then a stretch without any rain. Most beekeepers have drawn honey off hives; maybe a small late crop before the first freeze in Oklahoma central and lower counties. Colonies are in good condition. Hive beetles not good but manageable for most hives. Demand is very high and supply is low.

OREGON: No report issued.

SOUTH CAROLINA: No report issued.

TENNESSEE: September was a dry month for most of Tennessee. Goldenrod and Asters were the main sources of nectar or pollen this month. Beekeepers anticipate that they are going to have a decent fall nectar flow. Tennessee had no significant colony losses during August.

TEXAS: Bees are doing well - are strong and queenright. Hives have been reduced to their winter configuration (a deep super topped by a medium) and switched back to solid bottom boards. Even though the cold is a few months away, many like to give the bees time to set things up, with no further manipulations by beekeepers.

Feeding will begin in about two weeks. At the moment, bees are being treated for varroa mites so that the colonies can start the winter season as healthy as possible. Feeding the bees will achieve the dual goals of setting up plentiful stores of food for the winter, as well as encouraging the bees in their last round of brood rearing for the season - raising the new bees that will take the colonies through the winter. Beekeepers are being proactive as possible to reduce long-term labor and losses.

Due to the limited harvest this year, some beekeepers are sold out of honey until next July.

WASHINGTON: With the drought conditions and above normal temperatures much of forage was gone by mid-summer. Water for bees has also been an issue as numerous sources of water simply had dried up. Many beekeepers have had to feed. While the honey flow was good earlier in the season the average is not as promising. The weather in September finally cooled off to more normal temperatures, but before more fires had started in various parts of the state destroying more forage or potential forage, as well as spreading smoke downwind.

WISCONSIN: Temperatures for the month of September were mild and rainfall was normal for the state of Wisconsin, according to a few of the beekeepers. They have begun combating mites with miticidal strips and oxalic acid. They report a normal, healthy population of bees. Beekeepers report very little wild foliage for their bees and aster is the only flower remaining. They have begun supplemental feeding of the bees. No production reported and sales are based on honey harvested in August. Demand for honey is good at the retail level and fairly good at the wholesale level. Prices are generally unchanged.

U.S Exports of Honey By Country, Quantity, and Value

	Year to 1	Date	August 2015		
	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	Quantity Kilograms	Value Dollars	
COMB & NATURAL HONEY PACKAGE	D FOR RETAIL SALE				
Afghanistan	1,322	12,310	0	0	
Bahamas, The	2,835	10,740	2,011	3,321	
Bahrain	24,566	59,629	0	0	
Bangladesh	1,000	4,435	0	0	
Barbados	27,434	82,406	13,636	25,979	
Brazil	4,407	10,696	0	0	
Cayman Islands	548	3,180	0	0	
China	240,162	587,128	71,848	174,400	
Guatemala	897	5,341	0	0	
Guyana	7,782	31,097	816	7,068	
Hong Kong	4,268	19,679	1,370	8,179	
India	260,400	910,470	0	0,179	
Japan	280,959	943,988	0	0	
Korea, South	167,121	889,348	18,441	95,078	
Kuwait	189,496	464,260	0	0	
Lebanon	780	3,915	780	3,915	
Malaysia	4,692	11,390	0	0,913	
	12,973	78,383	2,380		
Netherlands Antilles(*)				8,941	
Panama	19,400	100,366	1,795	10,682	
Philippines	262,159	639,668	104,938	254,717	
Saudi Arabia	449	3,384	0	0	
Singapore	40,020	125,378	6,919	22,573	
Sri Lanka	1,482	3,598	0	0	
Taiwan	8,296	20,136	0	0	
United Arab Emirates	249,988	627,960	58,129	141,098	
Yemen(*)	49,808	137,084	0	0	
NATURAL HONEY, NOT ELSEWHERE I	NDICATED				
OR SPECIFIED Bahamas, The	21,948	98,820	0	0	
Barbados	5,653	36,978	952	6,666	
Belgium-Luxembourg(*)	2,014	4,889	0	0,000	
Bermuda	35,425	110,940	4,284	23,285	
Canada	775,911	3,558,224	47,327	278,844	
			47,327	270,044	
Cayman Islands	1,262	5,291			
China	809	12,853	0	0	
China	41,300	153,202	0	0	
Dominican Republic	3,331	11,200	0	0	
Germany(*)	4,155	13,945	0	0	
Guatemala	760	8,814	0	0	
Hong Kong	39,321	236,370	0	0	
India	219,540	595,082	0	0	
Italy(*)	8,262	22,920	0	0	

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Japan		30,887	114,111	19,652	47,699
Jordan		646	5,000	0	0
Korea, South		124,825	471,820	26,162	63,500
Kuwait		2,779	6,746	0	0
Leeward-Windward Islands(*)		1,140	2,766	1,140	2,766
Mexico		24,665	99,642	24,665	99,642
Mongolia		2,366	5,742	0	0
Netherlands Antilles(*)		9,553	41,163	0	0
Pakistan		10,761	74,923	0	0
Panama		408	3,056	0	0
Philippines		5,216	38,997	2,366	18,055
Saudi Arabia		53,923	147,202	2,113	8,316
Singapore		13,235	67,818	0	0
Thailand		3,538	24,235	0	0
United Arab Emirates		10,515	47,139	1,002	5,660
United Kingdom		147	2,590	0	0
Vietnam		171,001	461,026	0	0
GRAND TOTAL		3,488,540	12,269,473	412,726	1,310,384

U.S Imports of Honey By Country, Quantity, and Value

		Year to Date		August 2015		
	Quantity	Value	CIF Value	Quantity	Value	CIF Value
	Kilograms	Dollars	Dollars	Kilograms	Dollars	Dollars
WHITE HONEY – NOT PACKAGED FOR RI	ETAIL SALE					
Argentina	4,142,077	16,209,590	16,480,626	341,748	1,261,063	1,276,330
Australia(*)	19,490	79,909	80,909	0	0	0
Brazil	541,753	2,178,871	2,253,184	19,305	61,210	66,261
Canada	5,896,767	25,345,102	25,462,324	699,590	2,897,189	2,903,938
China	802	5,135	5,435	0	0	0
Dominican Republic	6,282	17,612	18,781	0	0	0
France(*)	675	6,272	6,447	0	0	0
Germany(*)	614	2,095	2,162	0	0	0
India	2,961,413	10,236,886	10,465,325	421,738	1,401,810	1,442,677
Italy(*)	5,823	52,358	62,005	1,304	14,951	16,148
Mexico	1,685,805	6,957,716	7,009,612	53,441	218,553	220,006
New Zealand(*)	14,323	28,645	29,383	8,250	16,500	16,550
Portugal	3,341	5,028	5,922	3,341	5,028	5,922
Serbia	1,416	9,183	9,755	0	0	0
Taiwan	152,901	318,788	341,284	20,020	34,650	37,165
Thailand	354,264	945,509	987,009	0	0	0
Ukraine	37,120	115,617	120,875	0	0	0
United Kingdom	3,528	32,265	33,648	0	0	0
Uruguay	490,874	1,815,302	1,832,077	0	0	0

EXTRA LIGHT AMBER HONEY - NOT PACKAGED FOR RETAIL SALE - - -Argentina $12,975,867 \quad 50,709,652 \quad 52,494,892 \quad 1,229,569 \quad 4,471,676 \quad 4,616,016$ Australia(*) 19,500 88,725 89,288 0 0 0 505,979 Brazil 1,877,861 1,953,706 56,609 183,648 191,145 Burma 19,500 59,425 62,689 0 0 0 29,510 160,050 Canada 251,197 1,219,841 1,225,871 160,497 Denmark(*) 1,682 12,294 12,933 0 0 0 8,924 41,971 43,315 0 0 0 France(*)

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India	12,015,014	39,368,001	40,725,476	2,092,092	6,913,576	7,138,67
Italy(*)	20,207	46,799	50,026	9,164	16,162	17,66
Japan	10	2,790	2,970	0	0	
Mexico	2,508,666	9,758,413	9,874,376	18,028	71,540	71,84
New Zealand(*)	76,846	216,362	241,185	22,090	38,959	45,33
Pakistan	19,000	53,210	53,410	19,000	53,210	53,41
Portugal	219	2,408	2,608	0	0	
Taiwan	1,418,060	3,432,679	3,553,879	189,080	493,452	509,65
Thailand	2,115,384	5,629,063	5,774,088	498,140	1,301,066	1,324,66
Ukraine	8,051,714	26,074,066	27,467,494	537,575	1,763,040	1,819,01
Uruguay	2,402,102	8,290,679	8,520,074	282,358	935,521	967,63
Vietnam	811,160	2,279,058	2,420,633	231,880	636,822	676,52
LIGHT AMBER HONEY – NOT PACKAG	SED FOR RETAIL SA	LE _				
Argentina	1,481,185	5,718,930	5,931,863	151,604	572,113	601,98
Australia(*)	7,829	105,644	106,884	2,082	30,370	30,68
Austria	69,785	600,851	640,059	0	0	
Brazil	1,496,319	5,451,431	5,640,631	283,082	904,400	943,76
Bulgaria	19,980	69,972	74,852	2,264	4,320	4,67
Burma	979,500	2,403,174	2,558,068	55,800	139,500	152,20
Canada	1,728	9,540	9,676	0	0	102,20
Cote d'Ivoire	76,800	220,032	220,034	0	0	
Croatia	1,296	11,114	11,344	0	0	
Denmark(*)	9,890	97,818	102,367	0	0	
Dominican Republic	408,172	1,293,864	1,350,131	23,429	65,940	68,47
Ethiopia(*)	20,880	88,740	91,275	0	0	00,.,
Germany(*)	141,909	706,772	744,296	23,256	129,195	136,19
Greece	4,731	27,823	29,446	0	0	100,17
Hong Kong	7,524	49,286	50,160	0	0	
India	9,758,390	30,365,242	31,720,612	1,067,860	3,299,604	3,494,88
Israel(*)	1,363	8,225	8,493	0	0	
Italy(*)	4,865	88,285	90,868	1,015	18,471	19,11
Jamaica	11,089	72,600	77,600	9,999	58,080	61,08
Kuwait	2,779	24,689	27,196	0	0	
Mexico	315,675	1,089,918	1,095,378	153,293	472,125	473,64
New Zealand(*)	70	3,547	3,647	0	0	
Pakistan	4,886	20,116	22,128	0	0	
Saudi Arabia	1,327	16,992	17,507	1,327	16,992	17,50
Spain	20,695	169,674	175,120	3,913	35,038	36,07
Switzerland(*)	492	2,595	2,596	0	0	
Taiwan	1,113,999	2,548,806	2,642,426	191,400	430,650	450,65
Thailand	5,609,741	14,099,469	14,916,350	637,959	1,596,957	1,690,16
Turkey	3,573,060	10,282,080	11,221,082	372,000	1,134,600	1,234,60
Ukraine	647,022	2,060,756	2,143,255	37,700	122,526	127,52
Uruguay	2,525,207	8,209,113	8,365,660	278,413	896,872	915,23
Vietnam	21,534,940	60,662,999	63,457,826	4,448,944	12,651,119	
NOT OTHERWISE SPECIFIED OF THE				·····		
NOT OTHERWISE SPECIFIED OR INDICARGED ON Argentina	CATED 148,539	491,597	511,739	38,850	134,782	136,17
Australia(*)	94	2,419	2,539	0	0	
Drozil	19 744	62 167	69 167			

18,744

41,159

437,834

63,167

115,244

1,155,622

68,167

125,465

1,199,102

Brazil

Canada

Dominican Republic

0

0

57,600

0

0

178,560

0

0

183,360

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Egypt	4,474	21,900	23,366	0	0	0
France(*)	3,601	54,895	56,641	550	9,878	10,145
Greece	16,481	129,393	137,379	0	0	0
India	67,888	250,428	262,854	0	0	0
Indonesia	121,800	328,860	343,860	0	0	0
Israel(*)	94	2,700	2,786	0	0	0
Italy(*)	5,513	88,156	91,231	0	0	0
Lithuania	3,487	16,781	17,689	0	0	0
Mexico	286,090	1,106,404	1,113,538	2,582	3,960	3,982
Moldova	3,535	6,315	7,354	0	0	0
New Zealand(*)	633,205	7,683,635	7,844,287	72,585	904,881	921,864
Pakistan	1,338	6,150	6,960	0	0	0
Poland	21,363	87,198	95,558	0	0	0
Russia	39,702	183,654	193,823	645	3,652	4,227
Saudi Arabia	4,630	49,056	50,541	4,630	49,056	50,541
Spain Spain	5,004	40,715	43,358	2,851	27,264	29,030
Sudan(*)	2,650	11,290	14,176	2,631	0	29,030
Taiwan	406,246	1,122,603	1,187,143	41,851	137,678	143,480
Turkey	1,419	7,996	11,749	0	0	0
Ukraine	77,197	239,959	253,118	0	0	0
Uruguay	17,144	38,574	41,074	0	0	0
Vietnam	1,673,824	4,498,694	4,727,818	462,048	1,242,515	1,317,353
COMB AND RETAIL HONEY – Argentina Australia(*)	11,295 30	49,746 2,154	52,445 3,654	0 30	0 2,154	0 3,654
Austria	5,839	70,335	74,954	2,667	30,466	32,308
Brazil	14,502	110,094	112,430	0	0	0
Bulgaria	95,205	341,204	361,252	23,757	84,169	88,501
Canada	50,461	389,542	390,523	3,859	24,588	24,667
Dominican Republic	6,253	30,887	32,951	800	6,451	7,651
Egypt	13,249	24,159	25,927	5,250	11,625	12,055
France(*)	288,007	1,277,882	1,334,438	22,470	162,963	170,335
Germany(*)	213,587	993,423	1,036,684	0	0	0
Greece	29,443	321,120	334,264	718	7,377	7,708
Guatemala	10,680	36,450	41,030	0	0	0
Hungary	60,022	401,917	423,172	26,758	230,429	236,298
India	546,798	1,673,872	1,746,988	74,884	211,272	222,560
Israel(*)	2,511	15,660	15,760	2 424	0	20.802
Italy(*)	13,630 697	173,123	177,649 3,831	3,424	29,848	30,803
Kazakhstan Lebanon	2,850	3,483 21,060	21,954	0	0	0
Lithuania	8,426	36,055	39,661	0	0	0
Mexico	19,063	80,245	85,072	0	0	0
New Zealand(*)	622,824	5,152,764	5,222,480	59,118	793,233	809,979
Pakistan	2,333	7,494	7,836	0	0	0
Poland	16,589	69,176	73,499	0	0	0
Portugal	27,060	169,835	177,026	900	5,717	5,803
Russia	46,798	217,118	238,822	0	0	0
Saudi Arabia	1,553	13,117	13,326	0	0	0
Serbia	5,582	41,264	43,537	0	0	0
Spain	95,997	662,955	689,904	18,611	74,707	82,707
Switzerland(*)	13,416	88,642	93,124	282	4,616	4,905
Taiwan	62.486	133 082	1/11 770	0	0	0

62,486

98,160

45,774

908

133,982

637,002

114,109

5,400

141,779

659,422

124,114

5,607

0

0

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0

0

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0

0

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0

0

0

Taiwan

Turkey

Ukraine

United Arab Emirates

125,324,715 430,763,691 446,466,290 16,119,724 52,631,238 54,474,609

FLAVORED HONEY –						
Belgium-Luxembourg(*)	1,959	5,984	6,370	0	0	(
Canada	9,165	111,332	112,273	267	5,592	5,595
China	11,223	64,671	66,574	14	5,148	5,498
El Salvador	2,309	9,070	10,619	0	0	(
Finland	73	14,130	14,298	0	0	(
Germany(*)	10,200	34,082	36,232	0	0	(
India	68,563	151,308	159,169	17,308	39,622	42,129
Ireland	807	7,804	9,182	0	0	(
Italy(*)	1,749	60,274	61,347	0	0	(
Japan	180	22,877	22,977	0	0	(
Korea, South	154,011	2,654,993	2,720,361	22,291	354,997	360,895
Lebanon	240	3,600	3,744	0	0	(
Mexico	67,017	612,413	618,715	8,652	87,336	88,029
New Zealand(*)	76	12,207	12,454	0	0	(
Pakistan	1,387	3,725	3,887	0	0	(
Poland	880	3,179	3,396	0	0	(
Russia	2,778	8,658	9,612	178	4,116	4,616
Spain	739	5,238	6,252	0	0	C
Taiwan	28,148	73,162	77,778	4,399	12,326	13,111
Thailand	74,072	316,623	326,023	3,690	11,180	11,595
Turkey	915	4,744	4,855	0	0	C
ORGANIC HONEY –	254.066	1 120 020	1 200 210	0	0	
Argentina	254,066	1,139,920	1,208,319	0	0	(
Australia(*)	9,240	75,010	77,510	0	0	2.170.210
Brazil	8,147,790	31,584,117	32,727,335	584,517	2,113,944	2,170,210
Canada	74,260	531,375	538,784	1,143	8,820	8,847
Cyprus	850	5,469	5,941	850	5,469	5,941
Greece	960	12,681	12,904	0	0	(
India	125,400	359,562	368,005	0	0	2.70
Italy(*)	9,228	88,500	91,922	265	3,560	3,700
Mexico	65,796	279,782	288,688	1,944	10,714	10,717
New Zealand(*)	15,889	191,669	196,746	0	0	2 200
Spain	190	2,301	2,302	190	2,301	2,302
Ukraine	278,775	904,435	956,935	0	0	(
Uruguay	37,270	134,845	141,845	17,124	65,724	69,224

Notes:

GRAND TOTAL

- 1. Data Source: Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, Foreign Trade Statistics
- 2. All zeroes for a data item may show that statistics exist in the other import type. Consumption or General.
- 3. (*) denotes a country that is a summarization of its component countries.
- 4. Users should use cautious interpretation on QUANTITY reports using mixed units of measure. QUANTITY line items will only include statistics on the units of measure that are equal to, or are able to be converted to, the assigned unit of measure of the grouped commodities.
- 5. The CIF Value is not included within the 13th month data loads. This means that the CIF Value will be zero (0) for any records that are inserted during this process.
- 6. Product Group: Harmonized